

BOARDS ADOPT JOINT STATEMENT ON THE IMPACT OF HEALTH CONDITIONS AND MEDICATION USE ON THE OPERATION OF VEHICLES

Minneapolis, MN. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) recommends that health care providers discuss with their patients the effects of medical conditions and medication use on the ability to safely operate a vehicle in any mode of transportation. The NTSB asked state Governors to, among other things, assure that state agencies responsible for licensing and regulating health care professionals take certain actions to support the NTSB recommendations. In follow-up to the NTSB recommendations, the Boards of Medical Practice, Nursing and Pharmacy collaboratively developed and adopted a Joint Statement on the Impact of Health Conditions and Medication Use on the Operation of Vehicles. The Joint Statement and the full NTSB recommendations are published and posted on the Boards' websites.

The Joint Statement is meant to offer guidance to pharmacists and licensed healthcare providers who are authorized to prescribe medications. It contains recommendations that health care professionals should consider to assist patients who have medical conditions or who take medications that may impair an individual's ability to operate a vehicle. For example, such professionals may provide education to patients regarding medical conditions and medications, including prescription, over-the-counter, and dose increases, that may impact a patient's ability to operate a vehicle safely.

The *Joint Statement on the Impact of Health Conditions and Medication Use on the Operation of Vehicles* may be accessed on each board's website:

Medical Practice - <http://mn.gov/boards/medical-practice/>

Nursing - <http://mn.gov/boards/nursing/>

Pharmacy - <http://mn.gov/boards/pharmacy/>